

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3644

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. JONES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Chronic Wasting Dis-  
5 ease Transmission in Cervidae Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

8           (1) ACADEMY.—The term “Academy” means  
9       the National Academy of Sciences.

1                             (2) CERVID.—The term “cervid” means any  
2 species within the family Cervidae.

3                             (3) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term  
4 “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease  
5 afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

6                                 (A) is a transmissible disease of the nerv-  
7 ous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the  
8 brain; and

9                                 (B) belongs to the group of diseases known  
10 as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies,  
11 which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform  
12 encephalopathy, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

13                             (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
15 ministrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-  
16 tion Service.

17 **SEC. 3. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN**  
18 **CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.**

19                             (a) STUDY.—

20                                 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter  
21 into an arrangement with the Academy under which  
22 the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Sec-  
23 retary a report describing the findings of, a special  
24 resource study to identify the predominant pathways  
25 and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wast-

1       ing disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations  
2       of cervids in the United States.

3                 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The arrangement under  
4       paragraph (1) shall provide that the actual expenses  
5       incurred by the Academy in conducting the study  
6       under paragraph (1) shall be paid by the Secretary.

7                 (b) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under  
8       subsection (a) shall—

9                         (1) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed  
10      populations of cervids in the United States, iden-  
11      tify—

12                             (A)(i) the pathways and mechanisms for  
13       the transmission of chronic wasting disease  
14       within live cervid populations and cervid prod-  
15       ucts;

16                             (ii) the infection rates for each pathway  
17       and mechanism identified under clause (i); and

18                             (iii) the relative frequency of transmission  
19       of each pathway and mechanism identified  
20       under clause (i);

21                             (B)(i) anthropogenic and environmental  
22       factors contributing to new chronic wasting dis-  
23       ease emergence events;

1                         (ii) the development of geographical areas  
2                         with increased chronic wasting disease preva-  
3                         lence; and

4                         (iii) the overall geographical patterns of  
5                         chronic wasting disease distribution;

6                         (C) significant gaps in current scientific  
7                         knowledge regarding the transmission pathways  
8                         and mechanisms identified under subparagraph  
9                         (A)(i); and

10                         (D) for prioritization the scientific research  
11                         projects that will address the knowledge gaps  
12                         identified under subparagraph (C); and

13                         (2) review and compare science-based best prac-  
14                         tices, standards, and guidance regarding the man-  
15                         agement of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive,  
16                         and farmed populations of cervids in the United  
17                         States that have been developed by—

18                         (A) the National Chronic Wasting Disease  
19                         Herd Certification Program of the Animal and  
20                         Plant Health Inspection Service; and

21                         (B) State wildlife and agricultural agen-  
22                         cies, in the case of practices, standards, and  
23                         guidance that provide practical, science-based  
24                         recommendations to State and Federal agencies  
25                         for minimizing or eliminating the risk of trans-

1 mission of chronic wasting disease in the  
2 United States.

3 (c) DEADLINE.—The study under subsection (a) shall  
4 be completed not later than 180 days after the date on  
5 which funds are first made available for the study.

6 (d) DATA SHARING.—The Secretary shall share with  
7 the entity conducting the study under subsection (a) data  
8 and access to databases on chronic wasting disease under  
9 the jurisdiction of Veterinary Services Program of the Ani-  
10 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

11 (e) REPORT.—On completion of the study, the Sec-  
12 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
13 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on  
14 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that  
15 describes—

16 (1) the findings of the study; and  
17 (2) any conclusions and recommendations that  
18 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

